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Letter dated 4 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Amiri Decree promulgated as Law No. 38 of 2002 on the Establishment of a National Human Rights Commission

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a copy of the Amiri Decree promulgated as Law No. 38 of 2002 on the Establishment of a National Human Rights Commission (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 109 (b).

(*Signed*) Nassir Abdulaziz **Al-Nasser**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2002 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Decree-law No. 38 of 2002 on the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission

We, Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, Amir of Qatar,

Having examined the amended provisional Constitution, and in particular articles 23, 27 and 34 thereof, and the draft law submitted by the Council of Ministers,

Have decided to promulgate the following law:

Article 1

There is hereby established a permanent commission by the name "National Human Rights Commission", having legal personality and an autonomous budget and having its headquarters in the city of Doha.

Article 2

The aim of the Commission shall be to protect human rights and freedoms, for which purpose the following shall be within its sphere of competence:

1. To strive for the achievement of the goals contained in the international conventions and instruments on human rights to which the State of Qatar is a party;

2. To provide advice to entities concerned in Qatar on questions relating to human rights and freedoms;

3. To examine any transgressions of human rights and freedoms that might occur and suggest appropriate ways of dealing with them and preventing their occurrence;

4. To monitor any observations made by international and non-governmental organizations in connection with human rights in Qatar and coordinate with the bodies concerned with a view to replying thereto;

5. To participate in the preparation of any reports prepared by the State on human rights and freedoms;

6. To cooperate with international and regional organizations concerned with the protection of human rights and freedoms;

7. To engage in consciousness-raising and education regarding human rights and freedoms.

Article 3

The Committee shall be composed of not less than five members representing civil society, selected from among those concerned with human rights, and a representative of each of the following bodies:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- The Ministry of the Interior;
- The Ministry of Housing and Civil Service Affairs;
- The Ministry of Justice;
- The Ministry of Public Health;
- The Ministry of Education and Higher Education;
- The Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs;
- The Supreme Council of Family Affairs.

Each of the said bodies shall nominate the person who is to represent it on the Commission and an Amiri decree shall be issued appointing the members.

Article 4

Membership on the Commission shall be for a term of three years and shall be renewable for one or more like terms.

Article 5

The Commission shall elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman from among its members, the Vice-Chairman acting in lieu of the Chairman in the absence of the latter or in the event that his post becomes vacant. The Commission shall designate its own headquarters.

Article 6

The Commission shall convene upon the invitation of its Chairman once a month and otherwise as needed. A quorum shall be constituted at its meetings by the presence of the majority of its members and its recommendations shall be adopted by majority vote of the members present. If the votes are equally divided, the Chairman shall have the deciding vote.

The Commission shall submit to the Council of Ministers every three months, or as required, a report on the results of its proceedings, accompanied by its proposals.

Article 7

The Commission shall have the right to invite to its meetings any experts, specialists or others whose attendance it deems necessary, in order to seek their opinions or have them participate in the Commission's deliberations, provided that persons thus invited shall not have the right to vote.

Article 8

The Commission shall have the right to form subcommittees or working groups, made up of its members or other persons who are technicians and/or specialists, to study any matter related to its sphere of competence.

Article 9

The Commission shall have a secretariat composed of a secretary-general and a sufficient number of officers, whose appointment and the definition of whose functions and remunerations shall be the subject of a decision of the Chairman of the Commission issued in accordance with the regulations for the implementation of the present law.

Article 10

The Commission's resources shall be composed of aid, voluntary contributions, grants, gifts and bequests in accordance with the regulations for the implementation of the present law.

Article 11

Ministries, governmental agencies and public institutions and organs shall cooperate with the Commission and provide it with the information and data required in order for it to perform its task.

Article 12

The Commission shall establish, for the implementation of the present law, regulations which shall be issued by a decision of the Council of Ministers.

Article 13

This Law shall be carried into effect by all quarters concerned, each as concerns it in particular, and shall enter into force on the date of its publication in the official gazette.

(*Signed*) Hamad bin Khalifa **Al Thani**
Amir of Qatar

Issued in the Amiri Diwan on 6 Ramadan 1423,
corresponding to 11 November 2002